

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 are pending and are rejected.

Claim 1 is amended. In the following discussion, please refer to the substitute specification for all references to the specification.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Responsive to the rejection claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,861,708 ("Van Eck") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,330 ("Matsuda"), applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly and distinctively claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention. Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the two references because neither reference teaches or suggests an electron gun including a control electrode that includes a substantially planar component having a center portion and two end portions, the center portion connected to each of the two end portions through a curved portion, and two metal components each having peripheries extending outward from a cathode for attaching to the end portions of the substantially planar component, as recited in claim 1. Dependent claims 2-3 are patentable over the two references at least for the same reason.

NO, only 1 component w/ 3 portions
Amended claim 1 recites that the control electrode comprises at least three separate components: a substantially planar component having a center portion drilled with apertures which are intended to face each cathode and two end portions, and the center portion connected to each of the two end portions through a curved portion; and at least two metal components forming the lateral skirt, and having peripheries

extending outward from the cathode for attaching to the end portions of the substantially planar component. For other features recited, please see amended claim 1. The support for the above underlined features can be found, for example, in FIGs. 5 and 6. An advantage of the arrangement recited in amended claim 1 is that the contact between the two metal components and the substantially planar component is "stress-free." See page 5, lines 15-20.

By contrast, Van Eck proposes a structure of a control electrode implemented using two folded portions 33A and 33B as shown, for example in FIGs. 3A-C, or two portions 61A and 61B as shown in FIG. 6. However, nowhere does Van Eck disclose or suggest an electron gun including a control electrode that includes a substantially planar component having a center portion and two end portions, the center portion connected to each of the two end portions through a curved portion, and two metal components each having peripheries extending outward from a cathode for attaching to the end portions of the substantially planar component, as recited in claim 1.

Matsuda fails to cure the above defect. In fact, Matsuda discloses that each electrode includes only one metal component, not three separate components as recited in claim 1. See, for example, electrode 1-1 in FIG. 3. Thus, Matsuda does not even disclose or suggest a control electrode having a substantially planar component and two metal components. As such, Matsuda also does not disclose or suggest an electron gun including a control electrode that includes a substantially planar component having a center portion and two end portions, the center portion connected to each of the two end portions through a curved portion, and two metal components each having peripheries extending outward from a cathode for attaching to the end

portions of the substantially planar component, as recited in claim 1.

In light of the fact that both references, considered singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest an electron gun including a control electrode that includes a substantially planar component having a center portion and two end portions, the center portion connected to each of the two end portions through a curved portion, and two metal components each having peripheries extending outward from a cathode for attaching to the end portions of the substantially planar component, as recited in claim 1, applicants submit that claim 1 and the claims depended therefrom are patentably distinguishable from the cited prior art references.

Conclusion

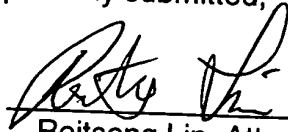
In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, please contact the Applicants' attorney at the number and address below in order that any outstanding issues may be resolved without the necessity of issuing a further Action. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Fee

No additional fee is believed due in regard to this amendment. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 07/0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop RCE], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

7-11-03
Date

Karen Schlauch
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